



DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING

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Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

January 26, 2004

Dear

I am writing to share the recent decision by Secretary Helene Nelson to authorize the Division of Health Care Financing to require prior authorization (PA) for all prescriptions for selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SSRI) drugs, except generic fluoxetine. This decision is based on a thorough review of the meeting minutes, materials and clinical evidence presented to the Committee.

The PA criteria will allow recipients stabilized on a brand name SSRI to be granted PA to remain on that drug. Only patients new to SSRIs will be required to try generic fluoxetine first. Recipients with a clinical contraindication, as documented by the prescriber, may be granted PA to start on a brand name SSRI.

We anticipate implementing this policy in March. Information describing this PA policy, including the STAT-PA worksheet, will be made available to physicians, pharmacists and recipients prior to implementation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like additional information regarding the policy. Thank you for your continued service to the Department.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Moody
Administrator

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